

same letter to: John L. Moore, Ex-Im Bank  
Juanita Kreps, Secretary of Commerce  
Michael Bumentha, Secretary of Treasury  
Zbigniew Brzezinski, The White House

6/7/79

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

AT103

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full June 7, 1979

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Dear Warren: Declassify on Reason

I hope you will read the enclosed report on human rights conditions in Argentina prepared by the Association of The Bar of the City of New York. Its study mission, led by Orville Schell, visited Argentina in April, and the report reaffirms the grim reports we have had from many quarters about Argentina's "disappeared," whose ranks include numerous lawyers:

"There is no question that since March 24, 1976, groups of armed people serving in military, police, or other state security forces have abducted thousands of people, subjecting most of the victims to torture, killing many, holding others in concentration camps or other secret places, and withholding from their families and all the world word either of their whereabouts or of whether they remain alive." (p. 26).

The report terms the fate of the "disappeared" the "most starkly brutal human rights violations in Argentina or, indeed, almost anywhere in the world that seeks to be civilized." There has been no accounting on the missing, and the report sees few signs of progress in government circles toward curbing the practice or even facing the problem (pp. 31, 36). Disappearances continue (p. 27).

The Honorable  
Warren Christopher,  
Department of State.  
Washington, D.C. 20520.

85D366  
59-91-0190

- 2 -

The report also covers prisoners detained under Argentina's State of Siege provisions, a review of prison conditions and treatment of prisoners, and the role of the Argentine bar and judicial system.

I thought you should have a copy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Derian', with a large, sweeping initial 'P' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Affairs

Enclosure:

Report.